

Message Text

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UNCLAS LIMA 3641

FOR ELVA MORGAN/S, TUCKER/SCS

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, (KAUFMAN, ROBERT H.)
SUBJ: OBIT/SCS ROBERT H. KAUFMAN

REF: TELECONS BETWEEN CONSOFF SCHMIDT AND TUCKER, SCS

1. AS REQUESTED FINAL TELECON APRIL 29, FOLLOWING IS REPORT ON DEATH ROBERT H. KAUFMAN FOR SECRETARY'S USE IN COMMUNICATING WITH DECEASED'S FATHER, JUDGE IRVING KAUFMAN.

2. MRS. KAUFMAN REPORTED DEATH TO EMBASSY EARLY MORNING APRIL 28 BY TELEPHONE FROM CUSCO. CONSOFF LAURA SCHMIDT AND FSL CECILIA COBIAN SPENT FULL TIME NEXT TWO DAYS ON CASE, INCLUDING EXTRA HOURS EVENINGS OF APRIL 28 AND 29. DONALD SMITH, DIRECTOR, PERUVIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN CUSCO, SPENT DAY AND EVENING APRIL 28 AND EARLY MORNING APRIL 29 ASSISTING MRS. KAUFMAN. MR. SMITH IS NOT USG EMPLOYEE AND UNDERTOOK SUCH EFFORTS AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST AS HIGHLY VISIBLE AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDENT OF AREA CONVERSANT WITH LOCAL OFFICIALDOM. MRS. CAROL LEE CRAIGO, AMERICAN PART-TIME CONTRACT NURSE AT EMBASSY, ASSISTED MRS. KAUFMAN WITH MEDICINES AND TOOK HER INTO HER OWN HOME APRIL 29 TO REST BEFORE ACCOMPANYING MRS. KAUFMAN TO AIRPORT EVENING APRIL 29. SR. FEDERICO LARCO, OWNER OF THE HOTEL SAVOY IN CUSCO, WAS EXCEPTIONALLY KIND AND HELPFUL ACCORDING TO MRS. KAUFMAN. MANY EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND CONCERN CAME FROM PERUVIAN
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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INCLUDING PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE FROM COUNSELOR ALFONSO RIVERO MONSALVE ON BEHALF OF FONMIN AND SR. JORGE PRIETO VALVERDE, PROTOCOL SECTION, FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO ARRANGED FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FROM PERUVIAN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES IN CLEARING REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT. AIRLINE WERE ALSO VERY HELPFUL, INCLUDING THE MANAGEMENT OF BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL, FAUCETT (LOCAL AIRLINE CUSCO-LIMA), AND LANCHILE, WHICH FLEW

MRS. KAUFMAN AND REMAINS TO U.S.

3. BOTH DONALD SMITH AND CONOFF SCHMIDT RECEIVED ACRIMONIOUS TELEPHONE CALLS FROM JIM KAUFMAN, BROTHER OF DECEASED, REGARDING AUTOPSY AND OTHER MATTERS. KAUFMAN REQUESTED CONOFF TO CALL SOMEONE NAMED JUDGE PEREZ IN CUSCO AND TELL HIM THAT HE WOULD BE DISCIPLINED FOR REFUSAL TO PERMIT BODY TO DEPART CUSCO WITHOUT AUTOPSY. IN VIEW MRS. KAUFMAN'S COMMENTS TO CONOFF REGARDING BROTHER-IN-LAW'S EMOTIONAL ATTITUDES AND FACT THAT JUDGE WAS ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL LAW AND CUSTOM, THIS WAS NOT DONE. MRS. KAUFMAN INDICATED TO CONOFF THAT SHE HAD THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DELAY OR OMIT AUTOPSY UNTIL MEDICAL EXAMINER SAID CERTAIN INDICATIONS ON BODY WERE NOT PRECISELY CONSISTENT WITH DEATH CERTIFICATE MADE OUT BY FIRST ATTENDING PHYSICIAN. SHE MADE DECISION AT THE POINT TO PROCEED WITH AUTOPSY TO AVOID FURTHER DELAY.

4. SOME GENERAL COMMENTS REGARDING PERUVIAN CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS IN CASES OF ACCIDENTAL OR SUDDEN DEATH MAY BE USEFUL. AN AUTOPSY IS REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF DEATH AND MUST BE PERFORMED WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE PLACE OF DEATH UNLESS A SPECIAL PERMIT TO ALLOW THE AUTOPSY TO BE PERFORMED AT ANOTHER LOCATION IS OBTAINED. IN OTHER CASES WHERE TIME HAS NOT BEEN SUCH A FACTOR, A MORTICIAN HAS BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN THE PERMIT, ACCOMPANY THE BODY TO LIMA AND ARRANGE FOR THE AUTOPSY AT LIMA. THIS USUALLY REQUIRES AN ADDITIONAL 2-5 DAYS. IN VIEW TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES FROM CUSCO TO LIMA (DUE WIND AND WEATHER CONDITIONS ONLY MORNING FLIGHTS ARE PERFORMED), NECESSITY FOR OBTAINING CUSTOMS AND OTHER CLEARANCES, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND FAMILY'S OBVIOUS DESIRE TO HAVE MRS. KAUFMAN RETURN TO U.S. WITH BODY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE BELIEVE MRS. KAUFMAN SHOWED GREAT STABILITY AND PRESENCE OF MIND IN ALLOWING SPEEDY COMPLETION OF AUTOPSY.

5. MRS. KAUFMAN AND REMAINS DEPARTED LIMA 0100 HOURS, APRIL 30, ON ONLY AVAILABLE FLIGHT WHICH WOULD NOT REQUIRE HER TO CHANGE AIRPLANES AT EITHER PANAMA OR MIAMI, HAVING BEEN SEEN OFF BY MRS. CRAIGO, CONOFF SCHMIDT AND FSL COBIAN.
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